

2013-2014
USASF DANCE
DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Updated 03 -05-2013

PRIMARY CATEGORIES

JAZZ

A jazz routine incorporates stylized dance movements and combinations, formation changes, group work, leaps and turns. Emphasis is placed on proper technical execution, extension, control, body placement and team uniformity.

POM

Poms must be used 80% of the routine. Important characteristics of a pom routine include strong pom technique: clean/precise and sharp motions, synchronization and visual effect, and may incorporate tricks (i.e. leaps/turns, pom passes, jump sequences, kick lines etc). Visual effect includes level changes, group work, formation changes, the use of different color poms, etc.

HIP HOP

Routines can incorporate street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

- or -

OPEN STYLE

A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles outlined in the USASF category listings. All styles will be judged against each other in this category.

PRIMARY AGE DIVISIONS

Division	Age	Team Size	Gender	Rules
Tiny	6 years & younger	4 or more dancers	na	Prep and Core
Mini	9 years & younger	4 or more dancers	na	Prep and Core
Small Youth	12 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	na	Prep and Core
Large Youth	12 years & younger	15 or more dancers	na	Prep and Core
Small Junior	15 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	na	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Large Junior	15 years & younger	15 or more dancers	na	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Small Senior	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Large Senior	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Small Senior Coed	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Large Senior Coed	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)	Prep, Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Small Open	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	0 males	Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Large Open	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	0 males	Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Small Open Coed	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)	Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Large Open Coed	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)	Core and Expanded Hip Hop
Open Male	14 years & older	4 or more dancers	0 females	Core and Expanded Hip Hop

The list above is a “menu” of divisions and categories that may be offered by an event producer.
Page two is associated with the division chart above. Page three are optional categories and age divisions.

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COMBINING and SPLITTING

Event Producers will combine divisions first by size when applicable then by gender.

Teams from the same program will not compete in the same division and category. A mandatory split in the division would occur in this instance; even if it means that a division is left with only one team performing. (Example: A program can not enter two Senior Jazz Teams in one competition, it must be split into Small and Large.)

1. **Small and Large:** If there are 3 or less teams in Youth, Junior, Senior or Open Divisions within the same Category Event Producers will combine Small and Large within the Age Division only. *(Example: If there are 2 teams in Small Senior Pom and 5 teams in Large Senior Pom, the Event Producer will combine into Senior Pom. The Event Producer will not combine these if it means that a program will be competing against itself.)*
2. **Senior Coed:** If there is only one team entered in any Senior division, Event Producers must combine Senior and Senior Coed.
3. **Open Coed:** If there is only one team entered in any Open Division within the same category, Event Producers must combine (in this order):
 - a. **Open Coed with Open Male**
 - b. **Open with Open Coed**
 - c. **Open with Open Male**
4. **Prep:** Event Producers must further split the Prep Category into Jazz, Pom and Hip Hop if there are least 3 teams in each Category/Division.
5. **Tiny & Mini Divisions and Optional Categories:** Event Producers must split Tiny, Mini Divisions within the same category and the Optional Categories into Small and Large (as outlined in grid) if there are 10 or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be at least 3 teams in each division once the split occurs.

AGE DIVISIONS

1. The Division (age) of a team is determined by the age of the oldest competitor.
2. The age of the competitor as of August 31st, 2013 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2013/14 season for all divisions.
3. Any team, from any country may enter any USASF division as long as they abide by the age restrictions of that division.

CROSSOVERS

1. Dancer(s) may compete in more than one division and/or category as long as they abide by the age restrictions in all divisions in which they compete.

DIVISION CATEGORIES

1. Event Producers may offer the Open Style Category (any style) instead of separate categories, i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, at any age division. *(Example: An event producer may offer Tiny Open Style instead of Tiny Jazz, Tiny Pom and Tiny Hip Hop.)*
2. Event Producers must only divide by categories listed. They may not further split or add categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability.

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BOLD font: Please read these carefully as anything **bold** is a deliberate change to the guidelines.
Please contact Director of Dance: Tegan Reeves (treeves@usaf.net) for further explanation with regards to any of these topics.

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES and DIVISIONS

USASF Event Producers may choose, but are not required to, offer optional categories listed below. Unless otherwise stated *the USASF Dance General and Core Rules must be followed in these categories*. The Age Divisions for optional categories are listed below.

Divisions	Age	Size
Tiny	6 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Mini	9 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Youth	12 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Junior	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Senior	18 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Open	14 years & older	4 or more dancers

PREP OPEN

The Prep Category is offered for emerging teams and dancers to prepare them for the core rules. Unless a split is available the Prep Category will be parallel to the Open Category; all styles will be judged against each other in this category, unless the splitting rule applies. A dancer may not compete in a non-prep category and a Prep Category within the same style.

The USASF Dance Prep Rules must be followed in this Category.

VARIETY

Also known as Team Performance. Routines will incorporate a blend of jazz, pom and hip hop styles. Emphasis should be placed on overall creativity and flow of routine and successful technical execution of the dance styles performed.

The USASF Dance Expanded Hip Hop Guidelines apply to Junior, Senior and Open divisions in the hip hop section of this Category, all other sections follow the USASF Dance General and Core Rules.

KICK

Routines emphasize control, height uniformity, extension, toe points, timing and creativity of a variety of kick series. Fifty kicks must be performed in the routine. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force.

LYRICAL

Routines combine the principles of jazz and ballet, emphasizing proper technical execution, the use of flexibility, balance and mood. Routines are fluid in movement and focus on emotion that compliments the musical selection.

MODERN/CONTEMPORARY

Routines implement the principles of fall and recovery, contraction and release, weight sharing and innovative manipulation of the body to express inner feeling as related to the musical or narrative piece.

PROP

Routines emphasize the use of props or a variety of props. The manipulation of the prop must be the main focal point of the routine. Each team will be given 2 minutes to set up and 2 minutes to take down their props before and after the performance if necessary.

The USASF Dance General and Core Rules must be followed in this Category with the exception of the Props section. Props may not be used to bare weight of a performer who is executing a tumbling skill or involved in a lift.

PRODUCTION

Production teams must have at least 20 members, and routines must emphasize a theme or a storyline. Routines may be any style of dance that is outlined in the USASF category listing. Production routines will have a maximum of 5 minutes to complete their routine.

The USASF Dance General and Core Rules must be followed in this Category with the exception of the Props section.